Filing Date: February 23, 2004
Title: AUTOMATIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPENSER

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

sending prescription information for a therapeutic agent for a patient to a dispensing apparatus;

giving the patient a unique authorization code that is not capable of being reused;

the patient entering the authorization code into the dispensing apparatus;

the patient being able to selectively cancel the transaction and after cancelling the transaction, receiving a traditional prescription, wherein when the patient cancels the transaction, the traditional prescription is printed by the dispensing apparatus; and

if the patient does not cancel the transaction, the patient receiving the prescribed therapeutic agent from the dispensing apparatus.

- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the patient receives the prescribed therapeutic agent from the dispensing apparatus without the intervention of a pharmacist.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the unique authorization code is given to the patient by a health care provider at a health care facility.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the unique authorization code is given to the patient by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician at a pharmacy.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the patient paying for at least a portion of the therapeutic agent at the dispenser.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the unique authorization code is unique to the prescription and only associated with a single prescription.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a dispenser containing an inventory of therapeutic products; transmitting a proposed prescription for a patient to a server;

authorizing dispensing of at least a portion of the proposed prescription out of the inventory in the dispenser if the prescription includes at least one therapeutic product available in the inventory of the dispenser;

providing to the patient an authorization code unique to the authorized prescription, the authorization code not capable of being reused for prescriptions other than the authorized prescription;

the patient inputting the authorization code into the dispenser and the patient entering separate patient authorization data into the dispenser;

the dispenser determining whether the authorization code correlates to the patient authorization data; and

the patient being able to selectively cancel the transaction and after cancelling the transaction, receiving a traditional prescription, wherein when the patient cancels the transaction, the traditional prescription is printed by the dispensing apparatus; and

if the patient does not cancel the transaction, the dispenser delivering the available therapeutic product to the patient in response to the patient inputting the authorization code.

- 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the authorization step is done without the intervention of a pharmacist.
- (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the patient receives the therapeutic agent from the dispenser without the intervention of a pharmacist.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the authorization code is given to the patient by a health care provider at a health care facility.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the authorization code is given to the patient by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician at a pharmacy.

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12-17. (Canceled)